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The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, *June* 4. 1695

Queſt. 1. *I have for ſome years laſt paſt, been accuſtomed to receive the* Sacrament *at the Church of* England; *and perform'd other holy duties as often as I could conveniently until about a year ſince, an unlucky accident befalling, and I thereby diſcovered the treachery of a perſon moſt near, and dear to me; who together with another (my* Antagoniſt) *have wronged me, not only in my eſtate, but my reputation alſo; and that in the higheſt degree, without any manner of provocation, who are ſince fled from juſtice, all which have ſo far diſpos'd my mind, and made me unfit for either publick, or private devotion; tho I have often ſtrove to compoſe my mind, and bring it to a Chriſtian Charitable diſpoſition, but when I think of the obſtinacy of my enemies, and the irrepairable injury I have and do ſuſtain, I cannot eaſily be in Charity to thoſe perſons, tho perhaps I ſhould do them no injury if it lay in my power. Now Gentlemen as it is impoſſible for me to forget the wrong, ſo I think it is impoſſible for me to Love the Actors; (but how be it) I beg your Inſtructions how I muſt behave my ſelf, and how far I am oblig'd to reſpect the Authors of all my troubles; and how I may bring back my mind to that quiet and peaceable temper it formerly enjoyed?*

Anſw. The greateſt misfortune of all theſe that have happen'd to you is the diſorder of your mind, to Calm and recover which you muſt conſider the cauſes of it, that you may be able to fortify your ſelf againſt them; no doubt the loſs of riches is a ſenſible affliction, and that of reputation ſtill affects us nearer. 'Tis true, we may be allow'd to ſet ſome value upon them, becauſe they are the means of procuring us many temporal felicities; yet as they are uncertain and depend upon a thouſand accidents, we ought to arm our ſelves againſt what may happen by conſidering them as they are in themſelves, and in following the dictates of wiſdom, which teaches us never too deeply to fix our affections on any thing without our ſelves. Such reflections might be of uſe to moſt, but are abſolutely neceſſary to perſons under your Circumſtances. Altho as a Chriſtian, you have ſtill far better helps to quiet your mind, by remembring that God Almighty, who gives us all things, has a power of diſpoſing of 'em as he pleaſes, and that he afflicts thoſe who ſerve him but for their correction and admonition, and therefore we are obliged to reſt ſatisfyed with the diſpenſations of his providence, tho they may ſeem never ſo ſevere to us. We are abſolutely commanded to forgive all injures, yet not to forget them, ſince that is ſometimes impoſſible, but our forgiveneſs is to appear by not remembring them with any hatred, or deſign of revenge, tho we may no doubt have a diſlike to the action ſo far as it was bad. Thus at leaſt you ought to behave your ſelf towards your enemies; And to perfect your own cure, to the uſe of your reaſon, you muſt add your devotion, and beſure to beg pardon for neglecting your duty ſo long, and aſſiſtance in the better performance of it for the future.

Queſt. 2. *There is a young Gentleman who is well educated, with ſome knowledge in the Law, and well qualified to keep* Merchants Accounts, *is at preſent out of an Imployment, which proves very uneaſy to him; he has ſome thoughts of Tranſporting himſelf to ſome of the* Illes *of* America *in order to try his fortune. Your advice is deſired how he may procure ſome imployment in any ſuch* Iſland *as you ſhall beſt recommend unto him; and your Judgment is alſo deſired whether he had beſt ſtay longer here on the promiſes of ſome Gentlemen who are in publick Imployments, or to go* Beyond-Sea, *with ſome Letters of Recommendation to any ſuch places as you ſhall think moſt convenient, for he is reſolved to obſerve your good directions, which ſhall be very acceptable to your unknown friend.*

Anſw. If he has but a bare ſubſiſtence till he can get into ſome employ, and theſe perſons who have promiſed to ſerve him have but honeſty enough to deſign what they promiſe, we think he had much better wait a little, than venture the uncertainty of a good ſucceſs, for if he ſhou'd be taken he may probably be ruined, beſides he can't be ſure of being well received if he arrives ſafe, without he is recommended by powerful perſons, and if he has that advantage, there's the more encouragement to venture himſelf, ſince it may be a means to make his fortune, we wou'd advice him to go to that *Iſland* where he can be beſt recommended, ſince in all of 'em induſtrious honeſt perſons have found incouragement. But if he is deſtitute of ſuch helps, and thinks it proper to ſtay here ſome time, he will do very well to viſit thoſe often who pretend to ſtand his friends, for if a man forgets himſelf, he can't expect to be remembered by others.

Queſt. 3. *A Gentleman put ſome mony into the Hands of another for him to diſpoſe of it advantagiouſly, which other perſon engaged himſelf ſo to do, but inſtead of that he treacherouſly draws him into a buſineſs whereby he almoſt loſt two thirds of his mony; the queſtion is whether this party ought not to make ſome reſtauration, it being wholly caus'd by him, beſides he is very rich, and the other under neceſſitous circumſtances?*

Anſw. This comes with ſo many threatnings joyn'd to it, that 'tis but a piece of Charity to offer our advice to the poor offender, to prevent the many Cudgelings and broken heads he's threaten'd with in caſe he refuſe to make any reſtiturion: if the matter be fairly ſtated and he wilfully drew the other in to his loſs, we think he ought in conſcience to make ſome reaſonable amends, and likewiſe to do ſomething for the love of his *Careſs*, ſince he's required only to act whats juſt and equitable to preſerve it.

Queſt. 4. *What is your opinion in reſpect to the ſalvation of a Heathen who has made a good uſe of the light of reaſon?*

Anſw. We are inclined to believe he will not be condemned for not believing the Goſpel which he never heard ſpeak of, or adjudged to future miſery, if he has made a good uſe of thoſe lights God has given him. Nor do we think we ſhou'd do amiſs to conclude either that God might make him partake of the benefits of the Death of Jeſus Chriſt, who by an extraordinary grace might will the ſalvation of ſome of thoſe who have not known him, not through their own fault, but becauſe the Goſpel was never preached unto them, or that God might reveal the Goſpel to them by ſome uncommon method, as he did to *Cornelius* the *Centurion*.

Queſt. 5. *I muſt beg your favour in this caſe, it has been my fortune to ſeat my ſelf over againſt a particular young Lady at Church, which Lady ogles extreamly at me, and I do not doubt but that ſhe has a very conſiderable fortune by her appearance, for ſhe has her Black to wait upon her. Gentlemen, I being of a Handycraft-Trade, I dare not preſume without your aſſiſtance in this caſe; therefore I beg of you to be anſwer'd as ſoon as you can, with convenience; if ſo be it takes effect, I will not be in the leaſt ungrateful.*

Anſw.

Anſw. Take courage Man, the work's near done, ſhe's half yours already; but before we are too confident, we muſt ask one civil queſtion, whether you are not purblind, and ſo might attribute thoſe looks to your ſelf which were only directed to the Miniſter? for a great deal depends upon theſe kind glances. But if you are not deceived, the daughter being thus gain'd, you muſt act honourably to credit her choice, viſit the father and tell him how much ſhe loves you, and that you are very willing to accept of her to keep her from *Bedlam*, which is not a common piece of generoſity; that you can like her mony as well as ſhe can your perſon, and that if he'll commit her to your care you'll make a very civil ſort of a Husband, if all this don't do he muſt ſure be a very untreatable man, and if he won't make his daughter happy who can force him.

Queſt. 6. *I being an Apprentice, and my Friends having not wherewithal to maintain me with Cloaths and other neceſſaries in the time of my Service, I made bold with ſome of my Maſters Goods to buy neceſſaries, and I always kept a juſt Account what I had, and it amounted to more than I can preſently pay; Now my time being expired, and I am in a good way for my ſelf, I hope in a year or two to make Retaliation; but this very thing kept me from Receiving the Holy Sacrament, and I never could do it through the Conſideration of it. I know what I am Indebted, and do deſign to make Reſtitution ſo ſoon as I am able. I deſire your Opinion whether I may not Receive the Sacrament without asking Forgiveneſs, and before I make Retaliation, being at preſent much diſſatisfied about it? I pray your Anſwer as ſoon as your conveniency will permit.*

Anſw. You did very wickedly in thus converting the goods of your maſter to your own uſe, altho at the ſame time you intended no real robbery, but to reſtore him the full value as ſoon as you ſhou'd be in a Capacity to do it, ſince you were not aſſured you ſhou'd either be able, or live to repay him, beſides the other inconvenencies you might both have run your ſelf, or Maſter into by it, this you ought to be ſenſible of and ſorry for; but ſince the acquainting your Maſter will not be any ſatisfaction to him, and you are now under a probability of being able to reſtore what you have defrauded him of, and reſolving ſo to do as ſoon as poſſible, we think you need not keep from the Sacrament upon that account. Yet you muſt remember not only to repay what you have taken from him, but likewiſe ſatisfy, for any damages that he received by it; and till this is done you ought to forbear all unneceſſary expences.

Advertiſements.

☞ 'Tis deſired that thoſe *Remarkable Providences concerning* Atheiſts, *the anſwering of Prayers and upon ſeveral other heads*, mentioned in a Letter ſent this week to the undertaker of the *Hiſtory of Remarkable Providences*; might be ſent with all convinent ſpeed to *John Dunton*, at the *Raven* in *Jewen-ſtreet*. Propoſals for Printing Mr. *Turners Hiſtory of Remarkable Providences*, with *Specimens* of the ſaid work, are to be had of the Undertaker *John Dunton*, at the *Raven* in *Jewen-ſtreet*, and of *Edm. Richardſon*, near the *Poultry Church*, and of moſt *Bookſellers* in *London*, and the *Country*.

☞ There is lately Publiſhed,— —A Sermon upon the Death of the Queen of *England*, Preached in the *Wallon-Church* at the *Hague*, *Feb.* 6. 1695. Upon theſe Words, *Acts*, 9. *v.* 36, 37. *There was at* Joppa *a certain Diſciple whoſe name was* Tabitha, *which ſignifies* Dorcas, *who was full of Good Works and the Alms deeds which ſhe did. It hapn'd in thoſe days that ſhe fell ſick and dyd.* By *Iſaac Claude*, Miniſter of the *Wallon-Church*. Done into *Engliſh* from the Second Edition Printed in *French*.

☞ The 16*th* Volume of the *Athenian Mercury* is now publiſhed, Reſolving all the moſt nice and curious queſtions propoſed by Ladies and Gentlemen, relating to *Divinity*, *Philoſophy*, *Love*, *Marriage*, *Hiſtory*, *Phyſick*, *Law*, *Mathematicks* and *Trade*, &c. from *Tueſday*, *Decem.* 18. to *Saturday*, *March* 30. 1695.

☞ Mr. *Sault's* Tranſlation of the 2*d* Volume of *Malbranche's Search after Truth*. To which is added the Life of *Malbranche*.

☞ *The Hiſtory of all Religions in the World*, from the Creation down to this Preſent Time. In Two Parts. The firſt containing their *Theory*, and the other relating their practices; *With Various* inſtances *upon Every Head*. To which is added, a Table of *Hereſies*: as alſo a *Geographical Map*, ſhewing in what Countrey Each Religion is Practiſed. *Written in a different Method from any thing yet publiſhed on this Subject*. By *William Turner*, M. A. and Vicar of *Walberton* in *Suſſex*.

☞ All five printed for *John Dunton*, at the *Raven* in *Jewen-ſtreet*. And may alſo be had of *Edm. Richardſon* near the *Poultrey-Church*.

☞ If any *Miniſter's Widow*, or other perſon have any Library, or parcel of books to diſpoſe of, if they will ſend a Catalogue of them, or notice where they are, to *John Dunton*, at the *Raven* in *Jewen-ſtreet*, they ſhall have ready mony for them, to the full of what they are worth.

Such Perſons as are willing to Buy or Sell Blank or benefit Tickets in the *Million Lottery*, may have ready mony for either, or be furniſhed with either, at the *Mercury Office*, at the ſign of the *Trinity-Houſe* in *Fleet Lane*, *London*, every day, from 1 a Clock to 4 in the Afternoon; Attendance being given thoſe 3 hours only.

THere is in this City a very Ingenious *Dutch* Man called Mr. *Vandepolle*, who has found the only true ſecret for curing all ſorts of crookedneſs and ill ſhape in any part of the Body and Legs, and that in a very ſhort time, and without putting his Patient to the leaſt pain, provided they be under 20 Years of Age. He further obliges himſelf to ſatisfy any Learned Phyſician, or other curious Perſon, by clear and certain Reaſons, that it is impoſſible perfectly to cure this malady in the Body, by Iron Stayes, which are now uſed by them who pretend to be moſt skillful and expert therein. Any perſon who deſires to employ him, may be further ſatisfied by one of the King's Phyſicians, to whom he was recommended by an Eminent Phyſician in *Holland*, who has atteſted the great cures he has done in that Country, and likewiſe by thoſe many cures he has done in this City ſince he arrived. Of which he has ample Teſtimonies by him. He Liveth in *Vine-ſtreet* in *Pickadilly*, next door to the *Flower-Pot* over the *Thiſtle and Crown*, at Mr. *Caſarell's* an *Italian* miniſter.

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